



# THE LIGHTED CROSS

## BERWYN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



### Inside this Issue:

- 5th Sunday Service
- Breakfast with Bunny
- Pilgrimage to Jerusalem
- Missions
- Pastor Letter
- BUMNS
- HUB

### Calendar Highlights

**March 8** Pi Day Bake Sale

**March 15** Feed the 5000 kick off

**March 29** 5th Sunday Service

**April 4** Breakfast with Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt

**April 5** Passion/Palm Sunday

**April 9** Maundy Thursday  
*Colors of Grace*

**April 10** Good Friday

**April 12** Easter

### Join Us For Worship

8:30 am Worship

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Traditional Worship


Communion is observed on the First Sunday of the Month

### 5th SUNDAY SERVICE


There are three months in 2020 that have five Sundays. For each of these 5th Sundays we are going to do something special. Our first 5th Sunday Service will be held on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am in Schieck Hall. (There will be no 8:30 service that day). The service will be a combination of music, worship, pancakes and eggs.

We will all gather around round tables with coffee and juice for the start of the service. We will do some singing, Pastor Rodney will deliver a sermon and then we will eat pancakes and eggs. Doesn't that sound like fun?

Most important – this service will be open to the community and there will be no charge. Please do your part and invite some of our neighbors to the service. See you there!

UMCOR kit item of the month: toothbrushes  
In order to keep up an inventory of supplies for UMCOR kits, this month we are highlighting the need for individually-packaged toothbrushes. Donations of kit items, including toothbrushes, can be placed in the HUB workroom.



Breakfast with the Easter Bunny & Egg Hunt



Saturday April 4, 2020  
9am to 10:30am  
Bring your camera for pictures with the Bunny  
Open to the community.



We have plenty of eggs for the hunt, but we do need candy, small toys and other small treasures to be put inside the eggs.

### Ministry of the People is supported by the Staff

Pastor: Rodney Brailsford

Children's Coordinator: Cindy Shallcross

Lay Leader: Lee Paylor

Admin. Assistant: Veronica Mosley

Organist/Director of Music: Amy McLoughlin

Nursery Assist: Eliza Chumpitaz

Recordings of Sunday Services are available—Contact Jon Stockler, 610-348-3385 or JStockler@aol.com

## PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM *Stephanie Borelly*

It is almost that time again to go on our virtual pilgrimage during the Lenten Season. It is **5,782** miles from Berwyn, PA to Jerusalem, Israel. (As a crow flies)  
If we work together as a congregation, we can complete our journey by Easter.

Our trek begins on **Ash Wednesday February 26th** as a congregation, we are going to walk to Jerusalem!

### **This is what I need YOU to do:**

1. Lace up your sneakers or comfy walking shoes.
2. Grab your pedometer, iPhone/Android, Fitbit or tracking device and get out there and walk/run!
3. There are **NO** age restrictions – everyone is eligible to participate!!!
4. If you walk at lunch, with co-workers, I accept group counts!!!
5. We want to get everyone involved, so ask your family, friends and colleagues to walk with you.
6. If walking isn't your 'thing' – I can convert laps in the pool, gardening, anything that gets us outside and moving!!

Keep track of every mile you walk and send this information **WEEKLY** to [Johnborelly@comcast.net](mailto:Johnborelly@comcast.net) or text **610.299.6254**. Please get your total to me each Saturday evening or Sunday.

Each week tally will be sent out. Once again, please find sponsors or be a sponsor for our walk. Last year the money collected went to the **United Methodist Services Bridge House**. We are open to donation suggestions for this year!



### **Missions Update: Looking Ahead** *Jeff Barger*

The annual Pi Day Bake Sale will take place on Sunday March 8th. Proceeds will be donated to the Chester County Food Bank. Come out and purchase a tempting array of delectable sweets baked by our own talented BUMC members. If you would like to provide baked goods you may drop off in the kitchen on Saturday or Sunday morning before worship.

The Feed the 5000 food drive kicks off on March 15th. We will accept bags of food up to Palm Sunday which will be delivered that week to United Methodists Neighborhood Services. Bags and list of food items will be available in the Narthex in March. And as always, no expired items please.



#### **HUB CORNER**

Thank you to the following churches and organizations who delivered items to the Berwyn HUB!

Hopewell UMC: hygiene kits and computers

Linwood Heights UMC: hygiene kits

Eastern Main Line Mission Link: school kits

**PASTOR'S LETTER** *Rodney Brailsford*

Our lives are often filled with inconveniences, unexpected events, and interruptions. Accidents happen, our brand-new appliance suddenly stop working, the phone rings just as we are getting into bed or a traffic jam makes us late for work. When we do not need an additional expense, our car needs a new part, or our heater stops working. Perhaps, an unexpected illness forces us to change our highly anticipated vacation plans. The list could go on and on. The trouble is, we often find ourselves handling these unexpected life interruptions poorly. We react out of our feelings of anger and frustration. As if we were children, we want to yell and stomp our feet until things happen the way we had planned. We may even find ourselves throwing a pity party.

To us, these inconveniences are unanticipated parts of life, usually catching us completely off guard. However, God is not surprised. They are not random and insignificant events. Instead, God uses these divinely designed life interruptions to transform us into the image of Christ.

A sick family member, getting stuck in seemingly endless traffic, or an expensive home repair may not seem like essential tools in our sanctification, but they are. We tend to overlook these life interruptions and instead expect God to work in our lives through huge life-changing circumstances. But the reality is that it is unlikely that we will have significant events in our lives that cause us to trust God and obey him in some deeply profound way. God will not call us to build an ark or take an only child up Mount Moriah. Instead, it is in the small frustrations and interruptions, the little things in our life, where God gives us opportunities to rely on God, to obey God, and to bring glory to God.

In his book, *Whiter Than Snow*, Paul Tripp says, "You and I don't live in a series of big, dramatic moments. We don't careen from big decision to big decision. We all live in an endless series of little moments. The character of a life isn't set in ten big moments. The character of a life is set in ten thousand little moments of everyday life. It's the themes of struggles that emerge from those little moments that reveal what's really going on in our hearts."

These ten thousand little moments happen when a friend going through a difficult time calls to talk while we are busy with something else. They are moments like getting stuck behind a school bus when we are already late for an important meeting, or when we have a flat tire on the way to work. They are in all those moments, throughout the day, when things do not go our way, our plans fail, and our life is interrupted.

These life interruptions are reminders that we do not have life figured out and that we cannot do it on our own. They are like the Shepherd's rod, pulling us back from our wandering ways, back to our Good Shepherd. We need these interruptions. In a way that nothing else can, they push us to the cross of Christ, where we remember the gospel and receive his grace and forgiveness.

It is difficult to see all the tiny frustrations and interruptions in our lives as the divinely placed opportunities to grow in grace that they are. However, seeing them as such helps us to take our eyes off ourselves and put them on Christ, who cares more about our transformation than about our daily comfort. Rather than giving us a life of ease and constant comfort, Christ interrupts our lives with grace and reminds us of what we need more than anything - Himself.

May God Bless You Richly,

Pastor Rodney



Jane Harris

March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb and everyone at the nurse school is looking forward to spring! We hope the groundhog was correct. This is the time of year we see a lot of growth in the children and the teachers are working hard on evaluations of the children to share with their parents in March. The leprechaun also makes an appearance at this time of year, causing all kinds of mischief in the classrooms. We are also looking forward to our big fundraiser in March, our silent auction and trivia. We are appreciative of our wonderful supportive group of parents. During February we focused on 'kindness' and our notice board downstairs is full of kind acts the children have done. Please come and take a look!



**LAY LEADERS'S LETTER** Lee Paylor

We all need healing at some point in time – whether it be physical, spiritual, or mental. A friend recently sent this prayer to me. A friend had sent it to her when she was recovering from a health situation. We do not know the author; if you do, please share with me.

**“Prayer for Healing**

Lord, you created me. My body is sick now and perhaps my soul too. Please heal me, renew me. Repair the body you had made. Refresh the soul you created for eternal existence. You alone know how to restore my health, for you created me. Make me whole again so that I may live my life for you.

Amen.”

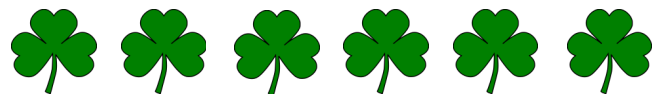
Blessings, Lee Paylor



Thank you everyone who purchased Christmas flowers to beautify the sanctuary during Advent. The delivery was a bit early this year but the poinsettias were still pretty on Christmas Eve. Next year's cyclamen will be displayed in the Narthex where they will get the sunshine they need to thrive.

Again, thank you for your continued commitment to decorate and honor our sanctuary.

Carol Williams



*Holy Week 2020*

*April 4 9am Breakfast with the Bunny & Egg Hunt*

*April 5 Passion/Palm Sunday*

*April 9 Maundy Thursday*

*7 pm Choir presentation of "Colors of Grace"*

*April 10 Good Friday*

*April 12 Easter Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30am*



**Spring Cleaning = Fall Festival \$\$\$\$**

As you begin your Spring cleaning please remember the BUMC Fall Festival on October 10, 2020. We are looking for knick knacks, wooden furniture, kitchen odds & ends, pots, pans, lamps, puzzles, games, pictures/frames, vases and so on.

Unfortunately, WE ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTING ANY UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE.

## MLK DAY OF SERVICE—A SUCCESS! Joy Fuerst

Berwyn UMC was a flurry of activity on Monday, January 20! We had thirty-four participants for the MLK Day of Service sponsored by our HUB, all engaged in a variety of projects to serve others locally and across the globe. As you read the highlights below and check out the accompanying "by the numbers," I hope you will be struck by what we are able to do together and for our neighbors. We truly are Connecting God's Resources with Human Need and loving our neighbors, whether they are local or across the globe.

Each person who participated in the MLK Day of Service was such a blessing; the energy of the day was palpable! We had all ages, from Nursery School-aged on up... 18 participants from Berwyn UMC, 4 from the Cleona HUB, 12 from the local community, and so many more who donated to the various collections. THANK YOU to all who participated, invited, advertised, donated, encouraged, and prayed for this event. Check out the highlights below:

### UMCOR Kits

Stations were set up with supplies for UMCOR school and hygiene kits. The assembly lines efficiently packaged the kits till our supplies were exhausted! Attention then turned to inspecting hygiene kits that were received from other churches. Lots of hands made for light work!!

### Greeting Cards

Some of our youngest participants made artwork and pictures to include in greeting cards. The greeting cards were written and sent to share a smile with members of our church family.

### Feminine Hygiene Kits

A gifted seamstress from the local community joined us for the day. Her efforts, along with those who performed the finishing touches, resulted in a pile of reusable sanitary liners. Having so many liners completed was such a blessing. Each feminine hygiene kit that is distributed in Africa by AFCA (American Foundation for Children with AIDS) includes 8 reusable liners. In many areas of Africa, there are no feminine hygiene supplies, forcing young women to remain homebound. These feminine hygiene kits allow young women to remain in school, become educated, and have options for their futures.

### Shoe Donations

Our first shoe collection was a success! The shoes donated by our congregation were sorted and packaged for delivery to Mission Central. From there, the shoes will be sent globally in support of small business and commerce opportunities.

### PLARN: making sleeping mats

Gloria Risser, from the Cleona HUB, made the trip to Berwyn to demonstrate how to make PLARN (PLastic yARN) from single-use plastic bags; the PLARN is then crocheted to make sleeping mats for people who are experiencing homelessness. Almost everyone participated in this fantastic project: bag flatteners; bag cutters; PLARN assemblers and winders; crocheters. Each completed mat is very time-intensive, and Gloria gifted one of the mats to our HUB as a pattern. In the time since Jan. 20, Laurel Adams has completed a sleeping mat! The sleeping mats will be distributed in Philly, to help provide some comfort and care to those who need it.

We could use your help keeping the PLARN project ongoing. Each mat that is made requires many single-use plastic bags, which are flattened and cut to make PLARN. We are looking for any volunteers willing to make balls of PLARN, so that our crochet-artisans can focus on making the mats. The steps to make PLARN are simple and easy to do while watching TV or your favorite movie.

### Medical Supply and Computer Collection

We also had actual flurries (snow!) during our Medical Supply and Computer collection on Jan. 18! Although we ended the collection a bit early, we had lots of donations in the first two hours. Many folks came out early in the morning to drop off donations. It was amazing to see the mountain of items collected, which will be transferred to Computer Ministry, Inc. and Project Cure, through Mission Central.





## Our **M**ission **S**tatement

God **CALLS** us to **Care, Accept, Love, Laugh and Serve**

## **W**orship **S**chedule

|          |                                |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| 8:30 AM  | Early Worship                  |
| 9:15 AM  | Sunday School                  |
| 10:30 AM | Traditional Worship with Choir |

Church Office: 610-644-5555  
Fax: 610-644-7890  
Email: [officebumc@comcast.net](mailto:officebumc@comcast.net)  
[www.berwynumc.org](http://www.berwynumc.org)  
Like us on Facebook: Berwyn UMC  
Follow on Instagram: bumcares

Berwyn United Methodist Church  
140 Waterloo Avenue  
Berwyn, PA 19312

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO 701  
SOUTHEASTERN PA